

REDUCING INEQUITIES IN CARDIOVASCULAR AND MENTAL HEALTH COLLABORATIVE-STRONGER TOGETHER

The University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMSON) has been awarded a five-year, \$5 million Health Equities Resource Communities (HERC) grant from Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (MCHRC).

- Grant builds on success of West Baltimore RICH Collaborative, initiative supported by \$2.4 million Pathways to Health Equity grant from MCHRC awarded two years ago.
- Original effort focused on reducing social isolation and inequities in cardiovascular health in West Baltimore.
- New project, West Baltimore Reducing Inequities in Cardiovascular and Mental Health Collaborative-Stronger Together (RICH 2.0), brings together community, faith-based, academic, and health care organizations to reduce cardiovascular health disparities, improve health outcomes, improve access to primary care, and reduce health care costs.
- Three new West Baltimore ZIP Codes added to RICH 2.0.
- Project expands beyond social isolation to other aspects of mental health.
- Project is led by Yolanda Ogbolu, PhD '11, MS '05, BSN '04, NNP, FNAP, FAAN, the Bill and Joanne Conway Dean of the University of Maryland School of Nursing, with support from Janette North-Kabore, MPH, and Asunta Johnson, MSHCM, project directors in the School of Nursing.

Co-investigators include:

- Kelley Robinson PhD, CNM, CNE, assistant professor, UMSON
- William Mangana, DNP '20, CRNP, FNP-C, assistant professor, UMSON
- Kelly Doran, PhD, RN, FAAN, associate professor and co-director, Biology and Behavior Across the Lifespan Organized Research Center, UMSON; director of health and wellness, University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) Community Engagement Center
- Abree Johnson, MS, MBA, director, pharmaceutical research computing, University of Maryland School of Pharmacy (UMSOP)
- Laundette Jones, PhD, MPH, associate professor, University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM)
- Stacey Stephens, LCSW-C, clinical assistant professor, University of Maryland School of Social Work (UMSSW), director of B'More for Healthy Babies

By the end of the five-year grant period in 2029, 4,000 additional individuals will have been served.



RICH 2.0 partner organizations include:

- A Better Tomorrow Starts Today counseling agency
- American Heart Association
- Ascension Saint Agnes Hospital
- ATOSK Health Care Services, Inc.
- B'More for Healthy Babies
- The Community Builders Inc.
- Coppin State University Helene Fuld School of Nursing
- Druid Heights Community Development Corporation
- LIGHT Health & Wellness Comprehensive Services Inc.
- Minister's Conference Empowerment Center CDC
- Roberta's House
- UMB CEC
- UMSON
- UMSOP
- UMSSW
- UMSOM
- UMMC Downtown and Midtown